(c) The 7th Plan provides an investment of Rs. 757 crores and Rs. 1328 crores in the industrial and minerals sector in U.P. and Bihar respectively.

Increase in the prices of indigenous news. print

589. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the prices of indigenous newsprint;;

(b) whether the increase was not announced officially;

(c) whether Government have acceded to the requests from manufacturers for increase in the prices; and

(d) what are the reasons for the increase in the prices of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Permission has been given by Government on 27th January 1988 to indigenous newsprint mills to revise their ex-factory price of newsprint on account of the following reasons:—

(i) Increase in the cost of inputs that have taken place since the last revision allowed in December, 1985.

(ii) The price that was being charged by indigenous newsprint mills does not have adequate cushion to absorb the escalations in the cost of inputs from time to time.

(iii) Majority of newsprint mills are incurring substantial losses in their operations in spite of high capacity utilisation.

(iv) A price revision was necessary to maintain steady production of newsprint in the wake of increasing demand.

There being no statutory control oer a price of newsprint necessary permission was given to the newsprint mills under intimation to the Registrar of Newspapers for India.

Pepsi proposal of Punjab Government

590. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 35 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th November 1987 and state:

(a) whether the Pepsi proposal of the Punjab Government has been finally approved bly the Project Committee and Investment (PIB) Committee of the Secretaries; and

(b) what are the salient features thereof as approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MM. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Project Approval Board (PAB) has considered the application. However, a final decision has not yet been taken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Approval of NRI consultancy public sector

591. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved any NRI consultancy public sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A proposal for formation of a Joint venture Consultancy Company in India with participation of a few selected public enterprises and an NRI Company for rendering specialised management and technical services has been approved by Government.